

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method for protection link fault supervision, comprising the steps of

monitoring active and standby transmission lines between a sending node and a receiving node, wherein both transmission lines carry identical data traffic,

terminating each transmission line at a separate line termination board, each line termination board associated with a persistency timer for timing persistency of a fault;

detecting and reporting faults on each transmission line simultaneously to a link supervision block associated with the receiving node, wherein the link supervision block is adapted for

storing fault causes received from the termination boards;

correlating the fault causes received from each termination board and

switching between the active transmission line termination board and the standby transmission line termination board;

comparing the persistency of fault time periods in each transmission line with a predetermined period;

determining that a correlation of the fault causes and the comparison of the fault time periods indicates a traffic disturbing fault on the active link; and

switching the traffic from the active line termination board to the standby line termination board.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the active line termination board timer is started upon detection of a fault.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 [[8]], wherein the active and standby line termination boards both report all fault state changes when the fault state changes are detected.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein an additional persistency check is made before correlation of the fault causes.

10. (Previously Presented) In a network, a node for providing link fault supervision between nodes, the node comprising:

- means for monitoring active and standby transmission lines between a sending node and a receiving node, wherein both transmission lines carry identical data traffic,

- means for terminating each transmission line at a separate line termination board, each line termination board associated with a persistency timer for timing persistency of a fault;

- means for detecting and reporting faults on each transmission line simultaneously to

- a link supervision block associated with the receiving node, wherein the link supervision block is adapted for

- storing fault causes received from the termination boards;

- correlating the fault causes received from each termination board and

- switching between the active transmission line termination board and the standby transmission line termination board;

- means for comparing the persistency of fault time periods in each transmission line with a predetermined period;

- means for determining that a correlation of the fault causes and the comparison of the fault time periods indicates a traffic disturbing fault on the active link; and

- means for switching the traffic from the active line termination board to the standby line termination board.

11. (Currently Amended) The node of claim 10 [[6]], wherein each line termination board includes a persistency timer.

12. (Currently Amended) The node of claim 10 [[6]], wherein the active line termination board timer is started upon detection of a fault.

13 [[12]]. (Currently Amended) The node of claim 12 [[8]], wherein the active and standby line termination boards both report all fault state changes when the fault state changes are detected.

14[[13]]. (Currently Amended) The node of claim 11 [[8]], further comprising means for making an additional persistency check before correlation of the fault causes.